



Tiger Tracks

Be Respectful, Be Ready, Be Safe



Gurrie Middle School
1001 S. Spring Avenue
La Grange, IL 60525
708-482-2720

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2019, Issue 3

www.d105/gurrie.net

School Closing Hotline: 708-482-2722

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CALENDAR

November

- 25 Board of Ed. Meeting 7:30p.m.
- 26 Gurrie Feast
- 26 Project Linus, 1:30p.m.
- 27 Non Attendance Day
- 28 Thanksgiving Day
- 29 Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- 3 LT Future Freshman Night
LT South, 7p.m
- 5 Holiday Orchestra Concert, 7:00p.m
- 6 Trimester 1 Honor Roll Breakfast,
7:45a.m
- 10 Holiday Band Concert 7:00p.m.
- 16 Board of Ed. Meeting 7:30p.m



*The Staff and Students of
Gurrie Middle School wish you all a
Happy Thanksgiving*



From the Principal's Desk



Greetings from Gurrie!

It is hard to believe but we are one-third of the way through the school year and the Thanksgiving holiday is in a few weeks!

One of our favorite activities here at Gurrie is the annual Feast. This event began 22 years ago and continues on this year. We will have over 450 people attend and it is an opportunity for our students and staff to sit down and celebrate our Gurrie family with a wonderful meal. Meals are developed and planned in each advisory and students bring in their own portion of the meal to share. We sit down at noon and enjoy the many wonderful and varied dishes that our students bring. We invite retired school and district staff, local first responders and community leaders. Tables stretch from the cafeteria all the way to Spring Avenue School and are a great representation of our community and sense of family here at Gurrie. You will receive more information about this event from your child (if you already have not). If you have questions, please contact your student's advisor(s).

Looking ahead, 8th grade students and parents will be more and more involved with the transition process to high school. On Tuesday, December 3rd at 7pm, Lyons Township High School will be hosting Future Freshman Night at LT South Campus. This is something all incoming freshman and their families should attend as it provides important information about the transition to high school and the many opportunities that are available for students at LT. LT South campus is located at 4900 Willow Springs Road in Western Springs.

On Thursday, January 9, our 8th graders will meet as a group (here at Gurrie) with LT for another portion of the freshman orientation process. At this meeting students will receive information about registration and freshman year courses. That evening at 7pm, LT will return to meet with parents of incoming freshman to discuss placement and registration. Please plan on attending this opportunity. Even if you have already had a student attend LT, it is important to attend as each year there are changes and new information. Families will receive initial placement / schedule recommendations from LT in February.

Our annual winter MAP testing benchmark window will occur during the weeks of December 2nd and 9th. We will be utilizing block schedules during those weeks and students will complete their math and reading assessments during those weeks. Please encourage your student to do their best. This standardized measure, along with our unit assessments, are very important to us as we utilize them to identify what we are doing well with students and where we can improve instructionally. It also helps our students better understand their growth and areas to focus on to continue growing and developing academically.

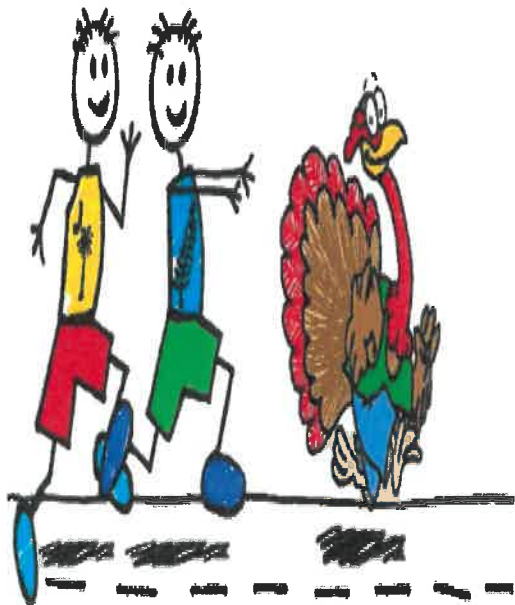
During Red Ribbon Week in October, students participated in the Signs of Suicide program which provides important information regarding depression and how to help a friend (or themselves) who may be struggling. Each student learned about the ACT acronym (acknowledge, care, tell). In the event that a friend is struggling students were taught to ACT. Acknowledge - acknowledge that their friend has a problem. Care - let their friend know that they care about them and are supportive. Tell - tell a trusted adult about their friend's struggle to get any needed help and support. Students also learned that depression is a treatable illness and that suicide is a preventable tragedy that can occur as a result of untreated depression. In addition, students learned the signs of serious depression or possible suicide in themselves or a friend and how to help themselves or others by taking the simple step to ACT. These discussions are not easy ones to have but students were engaged and attentive to the content and instruction, asking great questions and participating in discussions with the presenter. According to a report in 2015 by NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) suicide is the third leading cause of death in youth ages 10-24 while 90% of those who died by suicide had an underlying mental illness, typically depression. In 2014, a World Health Organization study found depression to be the number one cause of illness and disability in adolescents worldwide. We are grateful to Elyssa's Mission for bringing this important program to Gurrie and providing factual and useful information to students, staff, and parents.

As we head into the Thanksgiving break, I want to wish all of our families a safe and happy holiday and as always, let you know how much I am thankful to be a part of the Gurrie and District 105 community.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Ed Hood

Early Act News



Attention runners! The Rotary Club of LaGrange is having its annual "Run for Pi" on Thanksgiving morning. The course is (of course) 3.14 miles and starts at 7:30 in the morning on Thanksgiving Day. And yes, you could win pie for dessert after the race! Students, faculty, and other Gurrie family are invited to join in the fun. For more information please see Mrs. Rupert in room 109 or go to:

<http://run314pie.com/>

Rotary is also looking for volunteers to hand out water or help on the course. See Mrs. Rupert if you would like to earn some service hours.



➔ Important Announcement for Families with Students with Food Allergies

Some food at school sponsored special occasions may not be nut free. Parents/guardians may call the school to gather more information regarding foods that may be served at a specific event, or they may send an alternative food item with their child to eat.

A copy of the food allergy policy is available on the District website.

Books Make Great Holiday Gifts...

During the upcoming holiday season, remember books as gifts to children. Books last longer than most toys and games and they benefit the child. Studies show that children improve their reading ability by reading a lot. The gift of a book to a child tells that child that you value books and reading, and helps to create a lifelong appreciation of reading.





Music Notes

Holiday Music Concerts

The Orchestra Holiday Concert will be held on Thursday, December 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the Gurrie Gymnasium, featuring all orchestras.

This year's Holiday Band concert will be held on Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Gurrie Gymnasium. Cadet, Symphonic, and Concert Band will all be performing alongside the 3:00 Jazz Band, GMS Jazz Ensemble, and the GMS Percussion Ensemble. All Concert Band Members are to report to the Gurrie Cafeteria in Concert Dress by 6:15 p.m.

Please continue to encourage your child to practice regularly and attend all rehearsals on time. The band, orchestras and choirs always look forward to performing for family and friends. This is a great way to start the holiday season.

LTMS Jazz Festival

The GMS Jazz Ensemble will be performing in the LT Jazz Festival on February 26th, 2020. The students will be attending an all-day clinic featuring one of the top jazz musicians in the Chicago area, as well as performing for the LT directors and students. More details to follow!



Music Association Fundraiser a Great Success!

The Music Parents Association (MPA) again sponsored the annual District 105 Century Resources Music Fundraiser this year. The MPA and the directors send their thanks to all of the band, orchestra and choir members for their cooperation and contribution to another great fundraiser. All items will be delivered and ready for pickup on Monday, November 25th from 3:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. in the cafeteria at Gurrie Middle School. MPA uses these proceeds to provide for your students beyond our fine district's financial obligation to the music programs. Examples include instruments, supplies, food for activities, music education software, guest conductors and so much more! We would also like to remind you that if you did not participate, we would greatly appreciate you considering a \$35.00 buyout, to be submitted as soon as possible. Thank you!



LT Solo and Ensemble Contest



This is just a reminder that the Lyons Township High School Solo and Ensemble contest will be held on Saturday, March 7th at Lyons Township South Campus. Information and registration forms will be passed out to band and orchestra members during the first week of December. Completed registration forms will be due early in January. It is encouraged that all students participate.

We will also be holding our annual District 105 Pre-Solo and Ensemble Showcase on Tuesday, March 3rd. This is a requirement for all 4th-8th grade orchestra and 5th-8th grade band students. More details will be distributed after winter break.

District 105 Music Program Dress Code

Information was distributed at the parent's meetings in September explaining the dress code all Fine Arts students at performances. Please be sure this form has been returned to your child's director and that you have discussed/made arrangements for your child to adhere to this policy.



Health Notes....

Reminders

Winter is coming and so are seasonal illnesses. Parents are reminded to be watchful for flu symptoms in their children. Parents of children with asthma or chronic disease should have already consulted with their doctors regarding their need for flu vaccine.

Remember, sometimes we feel “less than great” but we are still able to do our job. A student may attend school with a cold, but needs to follow good hygiene practices. Cough drops are allowed at school as they do not fall under our medication policy. A cough lasting more than two weeks should be checked.

Remember to avoid giving aspirin for the flu due to its correlation to Reye’s Syndrome. Other reasons to keep a child home

are fever, vomiting, diarrhea, strep throat (must have completed at least 24 hours of medication before returning), conjunctivitis (pink eye), and ear infections. **Please do not send a sick child to school and endanger him or the welfare of others.** Remember that if your child has shown symptoms of any of these illnesses in the morning, chances are that they will not improve as the day goes on. Please keep your child home in those cases. If your child becomes ill at school, or has come to school ill, you **must** make arrangements to either pick them up or have someone pick them up. Sick children cannot be cared for in the nurse’s office for an entire day and then sent home on the bus. This jeopardizes the health of the entire school community.

STEM CLUB

Congrats to the 2019-2020 Underwater Robotics STEM club team. 8th graders: Alita Folkening, Caden Strack, Brandon Betancourt, Ethan Mason, Davey Paulus and 7th graders: Sebastian Nevarez, Christian Montano, Max Itkowitz, Matthew Matteucci, Ryan Nowak, David Eterno, Ava Bailey, Siena Garcia-Rizzo, Jordyn Hoffenberg. Underwater Robotics STEM club will begin building their underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROVs) to compete in the regional event in the Spring of 2020 to the theme of “Excite, Educate, Empower: Students engineering solutions to global problems.” The teams will begin to design four ROVs to solve problems to model cleaning up plastic pollution in our waters, the impact of climate change on our coral reefs and maintaining healthy waterways in the Delaware River and Dam. Looking forward to an exciting season!



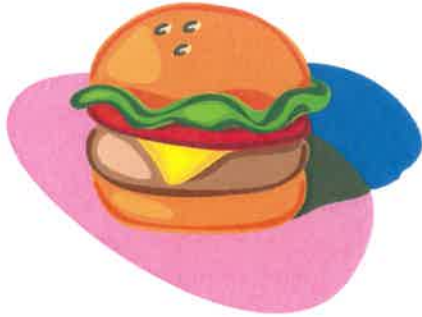
PTO NEWS

Box Tops Update

Gurrie Middle School PTO is thankful for Box Tops for Education! Please continue collecting box tops and send them to your student’s advisor. Remember, all proceeds from the box tops program help to provide the many wonderful programs and events the PTO brings to our students.

Friends and neighbors can collect box tops too! There is a collection receptacle in the entry way to the Gurrie office. Any one can come in and drop off their box tops. Remind your friends and neighbors that if they choose to do so, they should put your student’s name on the envelope so he or she can receive credit for the box tops.





Student ID Cards ... Hot Lunch Program ...Hot Lunch Pre-Pay

Gurrie students are issued student ID cards within the first week or two of school. These ID cards serve as school library cards, bus passes, and breakfast/lunch debit cards. Students are also issued a lanyard to attach their ID cards to so they can keep their ID cards readily available and safe. Students should carry their ID with them at all times. The replacement cost for a lost ID card is \$2.00, and students must have their ID cards replaced if they lose or break them. Breakage due to wear is considered on a case to case basis.

Gurrie students pay for their breakfast and/or hot lunches by swiping their ID card in the cafeteria. The breakfast is a “grab and go” breakfast (nothing is cooked/no hot breakfast is provided). The cost of the breakfast this year is \$2.15. Students can grab their breakfast starting at 7:55a.m. Only breakfast and/or hot lunches or milk may be paid for by swiping the ID card, and breakfast and/or hot lunches may only be paid for by using the ID card. Other lunch foods available in the cafeteria must be paid for using cash. Students on the free and reduced lunch program also swipe their ID cards when picking up their breakfast and/or hot lunches. If those students on the free and reduced lunch program choose to eat other food available in the cafeteria at lunch, or take an extra milk, they must pay cash. The free and reduced hot lunch program as determined by the state only covers one breakfast and/or hot lunch (which includes milk) each day. If a student on the free and reduced program only wishes milk or would like and extra milk, they must pay for it. This is according to the state program’s rules.

Parents are asked at registration to prepay \$60.00 (20 hot lunches at \$3.00 each) if their student will be generally ordering a hot lunch or eating breakfast at school. A lesser amount can be prepaid if the student will only be purchasing milk. Parents are asked to monitor their student’s lunch account throughout the year, and send money in to apply to the student’s card as funds run low. Parents can monitor their students’ accounts by logging in to their PowerSchool account. Parents who do not have computer access can call the school office for an update on their students’ lunch balances.

Parents whose students’ lunch balances fall in arrears by more than \$12.50 will receive automated phone calls from the District office weekly until the balance is paid. In addition, lunch balances appear on progress reports and report cards. Negative balances will be highlighted. Parents whose student’s lunch balances fall seriously in arrears will be contacted personally by the District office. Although the school will try to help parents keep on top of the students’ balances, *it is ultimately a parent’s responsibility to monitor their student’s lunch balance.*

Parents may send checks (made out to School District 105) or cash to the Gurrie office when their students’ lunch balances fall low. Parents may also pay online with a credit card. If parents send cash, their students will receive a receipt. Please check your student’s lunch account when you have sent in money to be sure that they have turned payment in to the office. As with so many things, lunch payments can be forgotten in lockers and back packs. When paying with cash, please send your student with the exact amount you wish applied to their lunch account. The office cannot make change. Please check your student’s lunch balance when you have sent in cash to be sure the amount turned in to the office matches the amount you sent.



Don't miss out on all the memories...order your Gurrie Middle School Yearbook today for only \$20.00!

Gurrie students will soon receive a yearbook order form in their Wednesday envelope. Please return the completed form with cash or check made out to Gurrie Middle School to Mrs. McGovern in room 112. If you pay with cash or check you will receive a receipt (delivered to your advisory) to confirm your order. If you need another copy of the order form, look for the link on the Gurrie website. If you prefer you may also *ORDER ONLINE* with a credit card at

www.jostensyearbook.com. Just click “**BUY YOUR YEARBOOK**” and then search for **Gurrie Middle School**. Yearbooks must be ordered by Friday, March 13, 2020 and they will be distributed during our school yearbook signing party at the end of May.

You can also upload photos to be considered for our Gurrie Yearbook! Go to www.replayit.com and click on “**FIND YOUR SCHOOL TO REGISTER**”, type in “Gurrie” and then enter your information to register and create an account to upload your photos. We'll select the best for use in our 2019-2020 Gurrie Yearbook.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. McGovern, Gurrie yearbook moderator, by email at jmcgovern@d105.net or call 708-482-2720, ext. 1212.

Cheerleading



Congrats to the 2019-2020 Gurrie Cheerleading team. Our 19-20 cheerleaders are:

7th Grade:

Amy Abarca, Biara Diaz, Chloe Dwan, Jordyn Hoffenberg, Lily Jandura, Melina Lopez, Ashley Maranon, Michael Ramirez, MaKaela Reimer.

8th Grade:

Melanie Almeida, Lillian Davis, Camille Woods, Avery Jasinski, Minna Johnson, Hannah Kallal, Katarina Neskovic, Aleksia Petrovich, Kendahl Payton, Meraly Rubio, Gabi Sanchez, Samantha Urbina-Medina, Emma Yawn.

The cheerleaders are off to a great start and are excited to cheer on the Boys Basketball teams this year!

2019-2020 Boys' Basketball Begins



Try outs for the 7th Grade Boys Basketball Team were on the week of October 21st. The following boys were named to this year's team: Ian Polonowski, Kellin Bourjaily, Leo Cannizzaro, Gavin Carolan, Luka Luburic, Thomas Curran, Johnny Rocha, Mercer Krantz, Charlie Shishman, Tyler Kirk, and Dylan Hall.

Try outs for the 8th Grade Boys Basketball Team were on the week of October 21st. The following boys were named to this year's team: Xavier Leverette, Jack McLane, Sean Cherry, Emilio Lopez, Shawn Jenkins, Eliezer Soto Gracia, Michael Frankhauser, Brennan Kirby, Yasir Garcia, Aldair Garcia, and Aidan Diaz.

The Teams are Coached by Mr. Alvarez, Mr. Driscoll, and Mr. Pontrelli



SPORTS CALENDAR

November

- 19 Boys' Basketball at Pleasantdale
- 21 Boys' Basketball vs. Park Red

December

- 3 Boys' Basketball vs. Willow Springs
- 5 Boys' Basketball at Park Blue
- 9 Boys' Basketball at McClure Red
- 10 Boys' Basketball at Westchester
- 12 Boys' Basketball at McClure White
- 16 Boys' Basketball vs. Washington Blue
- 17 Boys' Basketball at Washington Red

Boys' Softball Season Ends

The members of the 8th Grade Gurrie Boys Softball Team started the season with great energy and improvement. They had developed their fielding and hitting from last year, and showed off their new skills. The team had many new faces and each player was willing to play any position. The members of the 8th grade team were: Andy Guerrero, Angel Flores, Caden Strack, Eliezer Soto Gracia, Ilija Tomich, Jackson Koos, Jesus Palma, Josh Connolly, Laine Teagan, Michael Ojeda, Sam Costello, Tommy Goryl and Oliver Maksimovic. The team was managed by Sam Burcal.

The members of the 7th Grade Gurrie Boys Softball Team started the season with such great teamwork! The team was getting to know each other and ended up creating a great bond with one another. The team dominated the field and were able to make stellar plays. The team also had great at-bats showing off their swing. The members of the 7th grade team were: David Eterno, Angelo Lundeen, Ryan Nowak, Liam Helder, Mercer Krantz, Tyler Kirk, Cam Morris and Reese Teagan.

Thanks to all our parents who provided water, rides, and excellent fan support. Coach Noga and Coach Gjoni want to thank our awesome players who made it a fun season to coach softball! See you next season! GO TIGERS!



Girls' Basketball Season Ends



7th Grade

The 7th grade girls basketball team had a very successful season. They advanced past the 1st round of the Hodgkins Park District Tournament before falling to Highlands in the second round. Everyone worked hard and put in some great effort at getting better throughout the season. The team also participated in a service project to give back to the community and raised over 300 dollars at our Pink Out game. Team members were: Alyssa Robinson, Maddie Price, Maddie McLane, Lily Wenstrup, Catie Brejcha, Daniela Bojovic, Anastasija Pavlovic, Sienna Garcia-Rizzo, Kate Badrov, Delaney Judkins.

8th Grade

The 8th grade girls basketball team continued to have success after a great 7th grade season. The team was a great mix of seasoned veterans and newcomers that contributed right away. Every game was played extremely hard until the end, no matter what the result was. The 8th grade team took on a leadership role and organized a Pink Out game for the last home game of the season. All money raised was donated to Breast Cancer Research. Team members were: Katarina Neskovic, Journie Wickert, Claire Collins, Hannah Kallal, Samantha Santana, Nikolette Weiss, Izzi Wirtz, Maddie Rowen, Kaitlyn Filkins, Avery Jasinski, Briana Flores, Samantha Urbina, Melanie Almeida.

Coach Kulaga and Coach Yena



Gurrie Cross Country



2019 Gurrie Cross Country

The Gurrie Middle School cross country team competed in the IESA State Finals Saturday, October 19th at Maxwell Park in Normal, IL. To earn a spot in the State Finals, schools compete in the IESA Sectional Championships one week prior. Two 8th grade girls, Rozlyn Piagnarelli and Anna Bylsma, earned a State Finals berth as individual qualifiers with overall finishes of 7th and 13th in the Summit Heritage Sectional. The Gurrie boys team finished first place as a team to secure their first Sectional Championship in school history. 6th grader Patrick Collins led the charge with a 4th place overall finish in 11:38. It was a muddy day and shoes were lost during the race, but Gurrie put all five scorers (Collins, John Barrette, Maks Washchuk, Jonathan Garcia, and Emilio Lopez) in the top 18 to lock down the victory. Dean O'Bryan and Porter Gourley ran incredible races, as well, finishing 18th and 26th out of 90.

The IESA State Finals is the largest middle school race in the country and Gurrie was represented well. With a bus full of teammates and parents cheering them on, Roz and Anna started the day off right by posting two of the top three finishes in Gurrie history. Roz Piagnarelli became the fastest Gurrie girl ever with an incredible 31st overall finish in 12:25. Her childhood friend, Anna Bylsma, was close behind with a 57th place in 12:52. The three-year Gurrie veterans made their goal a reality in their 8th grade year and left it all on the course. In one of the closest State Finals ever, the Gurrie boys placed 2nd overall within the 2A division. The race couldn't have been closer with their team score of 136 points falling just one point shy of a state title. Again Patrick Collins led the way with an incredible 15th place overall finish in 11:06 (a Gurrie record) and earned "All-State" honors. Although Patrick is a 6th grader, he took charge all season and set the pace for his teammates. That pace was fast as all five Gurrie scorers, Barrette (38th), Washchuk (42nd), Garcia (48th), and Dean O'Bryan (63rd), finished the two-mile race in under 11:45. With 6th grader Porter Gourley (87th) and Emilio Lopez (133rd) rounding out the Gurrie runners, the boys were able to cap the day off with the school's first IESA State trophy. Looking to next year, the Gurrie boys will return Patrick Collins and Porter Gourley, the 1st and 5th sixth grade finishers in the state.

The IESA roster consisted of the following boys: John Barrette, Brandon Betancourt, Patrick Collins, Jonathan Garcia, Yasir Garcia, Porter Gourley, Emilio Lopez, Dean O'Bryan, Carson Turner and Maks Washchuk. In our LT Conference Championships, Gurrie has repeated our "clean sweep" of the LT Conference. The girls began the day with a 5 point win over McClure. Roz Piagnarelli and Anna Bylsma finished their Gurrie career with incredible 2nd and 3rd place overall finishes. 6th grader Molly Eskra won a medal for her 7th place finish while 8th graders Reese Metz and Sarah Crowe edged out McClure's 5th scorer by finishing 12th and 13th overall. Incredible finish! Congratulations to all 8th grade runners for putting a nice bow on a fantastic season. The boys also won their race and their 21 team points made it a dominant win to cap off their season. 6th grader Patrick Collins finished his first season with a Conference championship in 12:42 for the 2.2 mile course. 8th graders John Barrette and Maks Washchuk finished 2nd and 3rd while Johnny Garcia and Emilio Lopez rounded out the scoring with 7th and 8th place finishes. The add to the dominance, Dean O'Bryan, Carson Turner, Brandon Betancourt, and Sean Cherry all finished in the top 14. Congratulations to all 8th grade runners for completing a fantastic career. You've made us all proud!